

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) announces a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a grant opportunity with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 to fund worker bonuses through disbursements to HCBS providers for payment of year-over-year retention bonuses to certified direct care staff in Medicaid service delivery among Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers and beneficiaries. The Director of DHCF has authority to issue grants under the Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2007, effective February 27, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-109; D.C. Official Code 7-771.05(4) (2012 Repl.).

A Request for Applications (RFA) for the below opportunity will be released under a separate announcement with guidelines for submitting the application, review criteria, and DHCF terms and conditions for applying for and receiving funding. The anticipated performance period for direct care worker retention is January 27, 2020 to September 30, 2022. Providers are required to pay bonuses to workers no later than December 31, 2022.

Description of Opportunity:

Direct Care Worker Retention Bonus Payments: The total amount of funds available across the years of the Direct Care Worker Retention Bonus Program is up to seventeen million, seven hundred thousand dollars (\$17,700,000.00). DHCF will award as many grants as applicants who qualify in the amount of no more than \$17,700,000.00 total across all applicants and all years.

The grant will be awarded to qualifying Medicaid enrolled HCBS providers and will fund retention bonus payments to eligible Direct Care Workers who complete up to 2 continuous 12-month periods of continuous full-time employment, as defined by DC Health. Each eligible Direct Care Worker is eligible for a maximum of 2 retention bonus payments for each continuous period of 12 months of full-time employment between January 27, 2020 and September 30, 2022. The Direct Care Worker must still be employed at your agency as of the date the grant application package is received by DHCF.

The grant award for each grantee will be determined by calculating the number of consecutive 12-month time periods every eligible Direct Care Worker served, times \$1,500.00 per each 12-month period by workers at a HCBS provider. HCBS providers may be eligible for up to a \$3,000.00 payment per direct care worker, if they employed a direct care worker full-time for two consecutive 12-month periods within the performance period. The District will reimburse HCBS providers for the costs associated with the staff retention payments they made or will make. Providers must be able to demonstrate the grant award is used, in its entirety, to fund retention bonus payments to direct care worker staff. In the event a direct care worker (with an assigned NPI or otherwise identified) is employed or was employed by multiple provider agencies that are applying for bonus funds, the District will assign the direct care worker to a single agency based on hours worked over the months or years in question, or based on the date the first application is received by DHCF.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must have the authority to enter into an agreement with DHCF and be in compliance with applicable District of Columbia laws and regulations. Applicants must be an organization enrolled with the District of Columbia Medicaid Program to provide Medicaid HCBS. Applicants must employ Direct Care Workers to provide Medicaid HCBS to District Medicaid beneficiaries. Direct Care Workers must provide direct care services (i.e. personal care, chore aide, respite, etc.) to Medicaid beneficiaries for at least fifty percent (50%) of their work hours at the qualified organization and have been continuously employed for at least 12 months of the grant period for which the qualified organization is applying between January 27th, 2020 and September 30th, 2022. All applicants must also be registered organizations in good standing with the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), Corporation Division, the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), the Department of Employment Services (DOES), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and demonstrate Clean Hands certification at the time of application.

A RFA will be released on or around Friday, October 14th, 2022. The application package will be available online at the DHCF website (<https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/dhcf-grant-opportunities>).

DHCF will hold a pre-proposal conference on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 1:00 PM Eastern Time via Webex. Applicants must provide an email address to DHCF to receive notification of amendments or clarifications to the RFA.

Completed applications must be received on or before 4:00 pm on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 to DHCF c/o taylor.woods2@dc.gov. Applicants will receive an email receipt notification to verify that their application has been received. No applications will be accepted after the submission deadline. All eligible applications will be reviewed through a competitive process.

For additional information regarding this NOFA, please contact Taylor Woods, Special Projects Officer, Health Care Policy and Research Administration at taylor.woods2@dc.gov or at 202-442-9048.